

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, November 28, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of Heaven and Earth, through the stories of the ancient Scriptures You bring us to faith and renew us in hope. May Your word live in the hearts of the Members of this House and Your spirit guide them in their journey of service to Your people.

The ancient story of the tower of Babel describes the origin of diverse languages in the human family. It is from You, another illustration of the refusal to accept human limitations. Yet out of this context of diversity and confusion, You call Your servant Abraham to be the father of faith in You as the one, true living God.

Help us in our day to embrace not only our limitations but also our diversity. Let us not be as those who build for themselves a tower or city only to make a name for themselves. Rather, shape us by our differences to be one Nation under God who has a message You scatter to people all over the face of the Earth. Seeking to live beyond words, enable us to accept all human diversity, even the more subtle differences of perception and opinion. In such loving acceptance we give You glory now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HINOJOSA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING ROSITTA KENIGSBERG

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has many outstanding citizens. One such individual is Rositta Kenigsberg, a child of Holocaust survivors, born in the displaced persons camp of Bindermichel in Austria.

Rositta is the founding Chair of the Children of Holocaust Survivors of Southeast Florida. She also serves as the executive vice president of the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center in North Miami Beach.

Rositta has worked with Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel, and she served on the North American Advisory Board for the "March of the Living."

She has traveled to the concentration camps of Poland to retrace the steps of her father, the sole survivor of a family of over 120 members. She has contributed countless hours and worked endlessly to implement Holocaust education in the State of Florida.

Rositta currently serves a presidential appointment to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Please join me in congratulating Rositta Kenigsberg for her contributions to Holocaust education and to Holocaust survivors as well as their children.

DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, since November is National Diabetes Awareness Month, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage people to be screened for this disease and to learn more about the prevention and the treatment of this disease.

Approximately 16 million people in the United States have diabetes, although about 5 million of those people do not even know they have it. Sadly, this is a disease that disproportionately affects minority groups and individuals who are 65 years or older. African Americans are 1.7 times more often

having diabetes than Caucasians. And Hispanics are almost twice as likely to have diabetes than non-Hispanic whites; 6.3 million people with diabetes are 65 years of age or older.

According to the American Diabetes Association, total health care costs incurred by people with diabetes for the year 1997 was \$98 billion. At present there is no method to prevent or cure diabetes, but there are several things that we can do as legislators and individuals. We can promote research that includes minority populations and people over 65 years of age. These groups are rapidly-growing segments of our population, and we should do this research.

BULLENTINI COMFORT QUILTS PROJECT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, September 11 of course was a day of tragedy where thousands of Americans lost their lives, and some of the youngest victims of this heinous attack were the children who lost one or both parents in the disaster. Today, I am proud to announce that a resident of Reno, Nevada, is spearheading a project to benefit these children facing a world without one, either a mother or a father from this disaster.

Ms. Debby Bullentini, a former fifth grade teacher, has begun the Comfort Quilts Project, a project to provide the children with a special hand-made quilt made up of patches from all over the country. Every Member of this Chamber can help by signing an individual patch for the quilts which will be distributed to the 10 to 15,000 children who lost one or both parents on September 11.

I have encouraged every Member of Congress to visit any office or call at 100 Cannon and take a few minutes to sign a patch like this one to show that we do care about these children, and I wish we could do more to ease the pain of these children who are the youngest victims of this terrorist attack.

PASSING A HATE CRIMES BILL

(Ms. LOFGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to pass a hate crimes bill. Some